

What is claimed is:

1. A checkout device comprising:

a bar code reader including a housing having an aperture for emitting scanning light beams;
a security system in the housing and adjacent the aperture for deactivating security labels on scanned items;
and

an optical element in the bar code reader for shifting the scanning light beams to an effective location above the aperture.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the optical element comprises a glass block.

3. A checkout device comprising:

a bar code reader including a plurality of pattern mirrors for producing a scan pattern of scanning light beams and a housing having an aperture for emitting the scanning light beams;

a security system above the pattern mirrors and adjacent the aperture for deactivating security labels on scanned items; and

an optical element in the path of the scanning light beams for shifting the scan pattern to an effective location above the aperture.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein the optical element comprises a glass block.

5. A checkout device comprising:

a bar code reader including a plurality of pattern mirrors for producing scanning light beams and a housing having an aperture for emitting the scanning light beams;

a security system above the pattern mirrors and adjacent the aperture for deactivating security labels on scanned items;

wherein the pattern mirrors are designed to be located at a first distance away from the aperture and produce a first pattern, but are instead located at a second distance away from the aperture to accommodate installation of the security system in the housing and produce a second pattern; and

an optical element in the path of the scanning light beams for shifting the second pattern to produce a third pattern;

wherein the third pattern is about as effective as the first pattern.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein the optical element comprises a glass block.

7. A checkout device comprising:

a housing;

a bar code reader in the housing, including pattern mirrors for producing scanning light beams;

a weigh plate above the housing, including an aperture for emitting the scanning light beams;

an optical element in the path of the scanning light beams for shifting the scanning light beams;

a security system beneath the weigh plate and adjacent the optical element in a location for facilitating scanning

of items and deactivation of security labels on the items during a single swipe of the items over the weigh plate.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the optical element comprises a glass block.

9. A transaction method comprising the steps of:

- producing a laser beam;

- directing the laser beam at a plurality of pattern mirrors for generating scanning light beams;

- shifting the scanning light beams to an effective location above the aperture for reading a bar code label on an item;

- shifting light reflected from the item as the item passes over the aperture during a scanning motion;

- collecting the light reflected from the item by the pattern mirrors;

- decoding the bar code label from the light reflected from the item; and

- deactivating a security label on the item during the scanning motion.